

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 27, 2009

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: K. Clark, L. Ferguson, K. Halpin, P. Huizenga,

Absent: L.Starita

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting

The Washington Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting was called to order and the "Open Public Meetings Act" read into the Record. The meeting was duly advertised and posted on the Bulletin Board for Wednesday, May 27, 2009. A Motion was made by K. Halpin and seconded by L. Ferguson that the minutes be approved with no corrections for the meeting of May 13, 2009.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0

Abstain: 1

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Green Communities Grant- Paul Cowie & Associates' check list was discussed and specific materials gathered in order for the consultants to begin the Borough's Second 5-Year Community Forestry Management Plan. Most of the requested information was already part of the 2004-2009 Plan. After reviewing the mailed documents, Mr. Cowie will contact the Shade Tree Commission to set up a meeting date to further discuss the goals and objectives for the Plan. The Shade Tree Commission agreed that the current Mission Statement and Program Goals remain unchanged.
2. Grand Avenue- This concentrated area in the Borough needs to be a priority for tree removals and trimming. K. Halpin plans to address this issue to the Borough Council in the form of a letter. Kathy suggested that Peterson & Son evaluate Grand Avenue and provide two quotes (with and without stump removals) for the entire street. The Commission also requested quotes on the following locations:

190 Broad St.

98 Youmans Ave.

108 N. Prospect St.

245 W. Warren St.

111 McDonald St. (2) trees

This information will be included in the letter to Council in order to request sufficient funds to undertake all hazardous areas.

3. Tree City USA- P. Huizenga will contact a representative from Tree City USA to confirm that a Proclamation can be read on a date besides Arbor Day. P. Huizenga suggested that kindergarten graduation at Taylor Street School may be a possible alternate date to read the Proclamation and plant a tree. It will be discussed further at the June 10th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Community Forestry Internship Program – L. Ferguson suggested that the Shade Tree Commission incorporate high school seniors/college students preparing for a forestry or agricultural career path to participate in relevant town projects. The Shade Tree Commission would provide the experience for the students in exchange for additional assistance in maintaining the Borough's trees ex: feeding and fertilizing. K. Halpin suggested that the first step would be for L. Ferguson to discuss the possible liability factors with the Borough Manager.
2. Grants- L. Ferguson presented a variety of grant programs for the Shade Tree Commission to review. Due to the Borough's budget constraints, the Commission will consider alternative resources for maintaining the town's trees.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by P. Huizenga and seconded by L. Ferguson that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fleming